THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) According to official statements and media accounts, the Inter-Governmental Framework Declaration (IGFD) to support the IPI gas pipeline project has been signed between Iran and Pakistan. Further, Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) between Iran and Pakistan has been concluded. Specifics of either IGFD or GSPA have not been made public.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Leakages in Oil Plants

975. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether leakages in some oil well recently caused panic at some plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Fuel problems in Thermal Power Stations

976. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's 36 per cent thermal power stations are facing acute fuel problem and are operating on coal stocks of less than a week, coinciding with summer;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh, power station-wise; and

(c) whether an action plan has been prepared to tackle such issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The coal supply position of thermal power stations in the country is not comfortable. As on 6th July 2009, out of total 78 coal based utility thermal power stations monitored by Central Electricity Authority on daily basis, 31 power stations were 'critical' having a coal stock of less than 7 days, out of which 10 power stations were 'supercritical' having a coal stock of less than 4 days. The All India Coal Stock was 11.055 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 MT. Station-wise details of coal stock including power stations of Andhra Pradesh are enclosed as statement (*See* below).

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government of India to enhance supply of coal to power stations:

(i) Regular monitoring of supply of coal to Thermal Power Stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) Import of coal to the tune of 28.7 MT has been envisaged during 2009-10 to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its availability from the domestic sources.

(iii) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers / utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.